



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COUNCILMEMBER DJOU:
NO WAY ON GIVING LIQUOR COMMISSION MORE MONEY**

Today, the Honolulu Liquor Commission asked the Honolulu City Council for more money to increase the funding of the commission by over 25%. This is the same agency that has been the subject of numerous investigations for corruption, eight of its inspectors have been convicted of criminal misconduct, and the commission is currently the subject of an FBI probe.

"I cannot think of a government agency less deserving of increased funding than the Honolulu Liquor Commission. Until the liquor commission completely clears up the dark cloud of corruption that continues to hang over the agency, absolutely no additional money should be given to this agency," stated Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu).

"Prudence also dictates that we should delay any liquor fee increases until we can review the audit being prepared by the City Auditor on the liquor commission."

Resolution 05-034 proposes to increase liquor license fees by \$1.1 mil. to help expand the Honolulu Liquor Commission's budget from approximately \$3 million to over \$4 million per year. Last year, Councilmember Djou introduced and the City Council passed, a resolution asking for an audit of the Honolulu Liquor Commission. The City Auditor's Office expects to complete its liquor commission audit next month. More liquor licensees are located in Councilmember Djou's district than in any other council district.

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